



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **GILEAD RECIPIENT OF USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

**Gilead, Neb., August 31, 2005**—The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded \$20,100 to the Village of Gilead for needed improvements to the Village's community center and sidewalks. Village is contributing \$6,830 towards the project.

"We are very fortunate to receive the generous USDA Rural Development grant and would like to thank the Thayer County Economic Development Alliance for guiding us in our efforts to obtain the funds," stated Bradley Coordsen, chairperson for Village of Gilead. "The Village board, as well as members of the community, has always strived to keep our small town alive and active. Once the renovations are complete, it is our hope that residents and visitors alike will find our town more accessible and pleasurable to be in."

"USDA Rural Development is pleased to assist Gilead in making the needed improvements for various necessities in their community," stated Janice Stopak, community programs specialist for USDA Rural Development. "The proposed improvements will enhance community support and use of public facilities, adding to the strong ties and prosperity of this rural area."

Project improvements include replacement of the community center's unsound basement stairs to regain use of the basement for storage. Installation of new kitchen cabinets, sink, range, and hot water heater to use in food preparation for cultural and social events. Replacement of portions of unsafe sidewalk to the post office and community center and the addition of handrails and ramps to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

USDA funding received via the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant program. Contact Janice Stopak, (402) 423-9683, (402) 437-5093 (TDY); [janice.stopak@ne.usda.gov](mailto:janice.stopak@ne.usda.gov); 6030 S. 58<sup>th</sup> St. Suite B, Lincoln, Neb. 68516. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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